

Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Annual percent change			
						2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	240.9	288.5	324.2	285.0p	290.5f	19.8	12.4	-12.1	1.9
Crops	122.3	149.9	183.1	166.3p	160.3f	22.6	22.1	-9.2	-3.6
Livestock	118.6	138.6	141.1	118.8p	130.3f	16.9	1.8	-15.8	9.7
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	15.8	11.9	12.2	12.9p	12.4f	-24.7	2.5	5.7	-3.9
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	273.3	316.7	356.2	318.6p	324.5f	15.9	12.5	-10.6	1.9
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	68.8	78.2	97.5	70.8p	76.3f	13.7	24.7	-27.4	7.8
Net value added (\$ bil.)	101.7	117.0	135.7	108.1p	114.2f	15.0	16.0	-20.3	5.6
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,720.0	1,841.2	1,766.6	1,694.2p	1,643.3f	7.0	-4.1	-4.1	-3.0
Farm debt-asset ratio	10.6	10.4	11.9	12.8p	12.4f	-1.9	14.4	7.6	-3.1
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	80,122	87,740	78,803	76,258p	80,766f	9.5	-10.2	-3.2	5.9
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	120.4	129.8	115.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	3.4	3.5	2.2	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	304	312	317	310p	na	2.6	1.6	-2.2	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ^{1,2}	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.8p	5.7f	2.5	6.0	4.1	18.4

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	13,399	14,078	14,441	14,256	na	5.1	2.6	-1.3	na
Share of agriculture & related industries in GDP (%) ¹	4.6	4.6	4.7	na	na	na	na	na	na
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) ¹	0.7	0.8	0.9	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ²	64.0	70.1	79.3	73.4	76.5f	9.5	13.1	-7.4	4.2
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	68.6	82.2	115.3	96.6	104.5f	19.8	40.3	-16.2	8.2
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ¹	22.9	24.4	22.3	23.0f	na	na	na	na	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	195.3	202.9	214.1	218.0	221.8f	3.9	5.5	1.8	1.7
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.8	9.5	9.4	9.5	na	na	na	na	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.5	50.7	50.9	51.4	na	na	na	na	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	246.2	248.1	267.0	276.3	na	0.8	7.6	3.5	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) ²	53.1	54.3	60.9	79.2	na	2.3	12.2	30.0	na

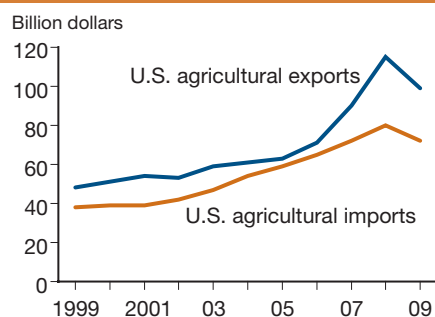
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

¹The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics.

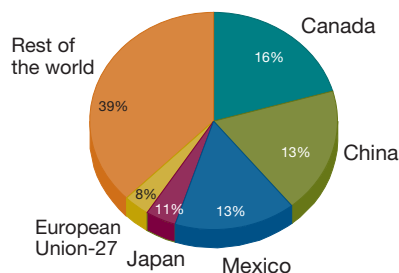
Sources and computation methodology are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm

²Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

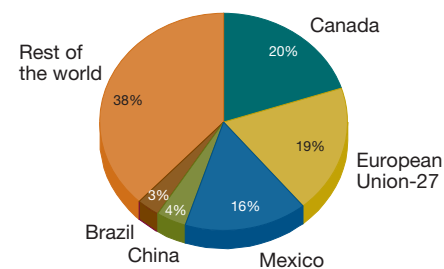
Despite a downturn in 2009, U.S. agricultural trade still shows a surplus



Canada is both the top destination for U.S. agricultural exports ...



...and the top supplier of U.S. agricultural imports

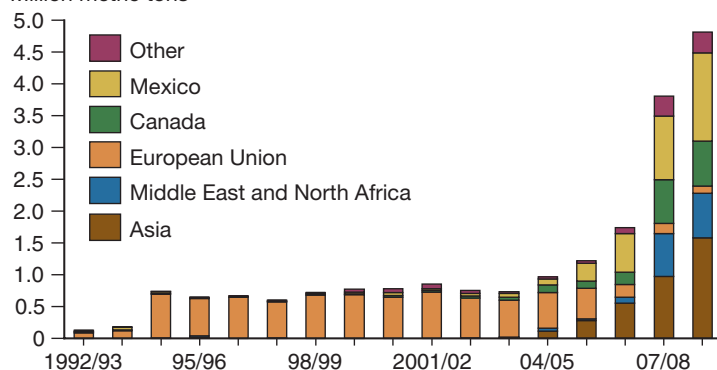


For more information, see www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/

Markets and Trade

U.S. exports of distillers' grains surge; fastest growing markets are Mexico and Asia

Million metric tons

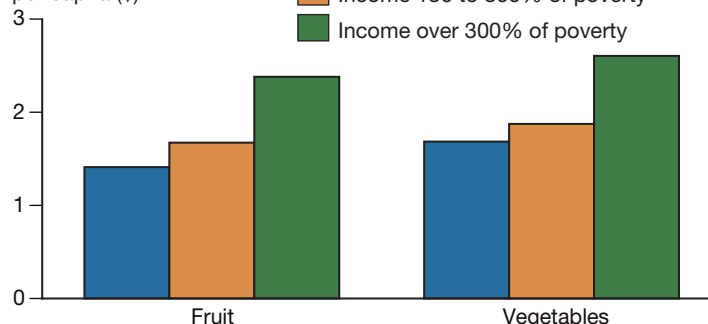


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Diet and Health

In 2008, low- and middle-income U.S. households spent less on fruit and vegetables than high-income households

Weekly spending per capita (\$)

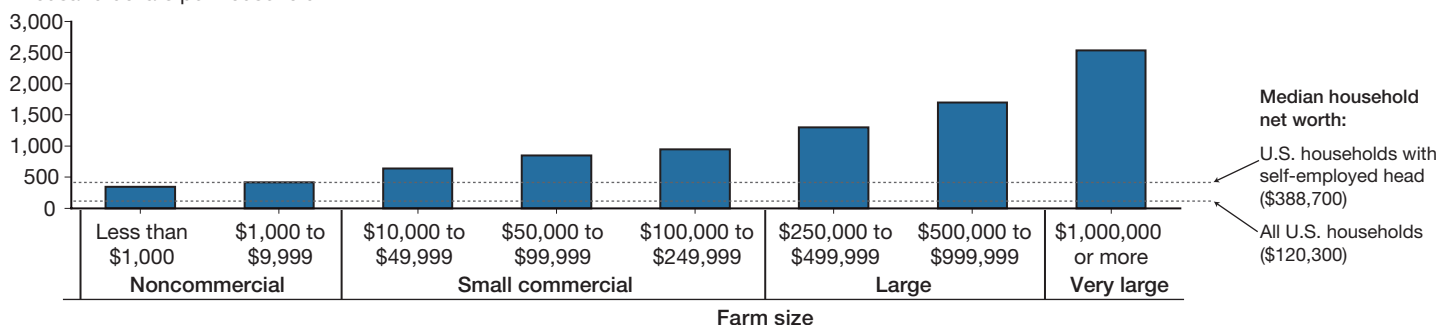


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Farms, Firms, and Households

Regardless of farm size, median farm household net worth exceeded that of all U.S. households in 2007

Thousand dollars per household



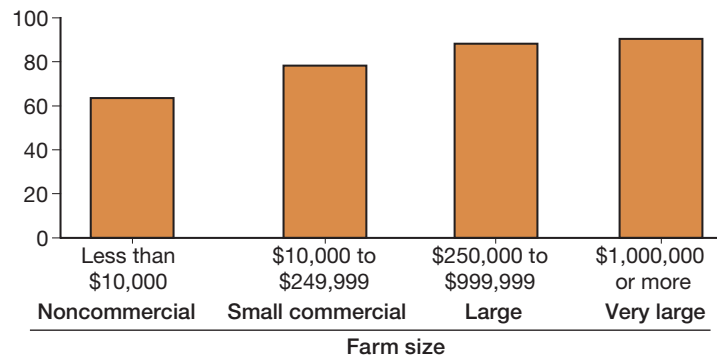
Note: Half of the households have less than the median net worth, while the other half have more. Medians are often used to summarize household net worth because of its skewed distribution. Farm household net worth is estimated only for family farms.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Phase III, for farm households; Federal Reserve Board, 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances for all U.S. households and U.S. households with a self-employed head.

Farms, Firms, and Households

The farm accounted for most of operator households' wealth in 2007, regardless of farm size

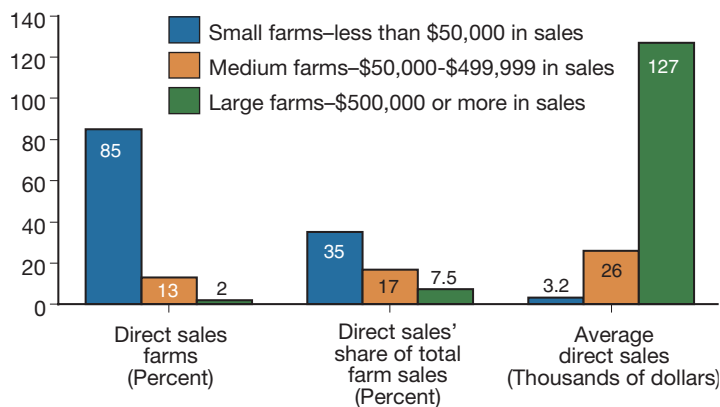
Percent of farm household net worth from the farm business



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Phase III.

Rural America

Direct sales farms by sales class in 2007



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2007 Census of Agriculture.

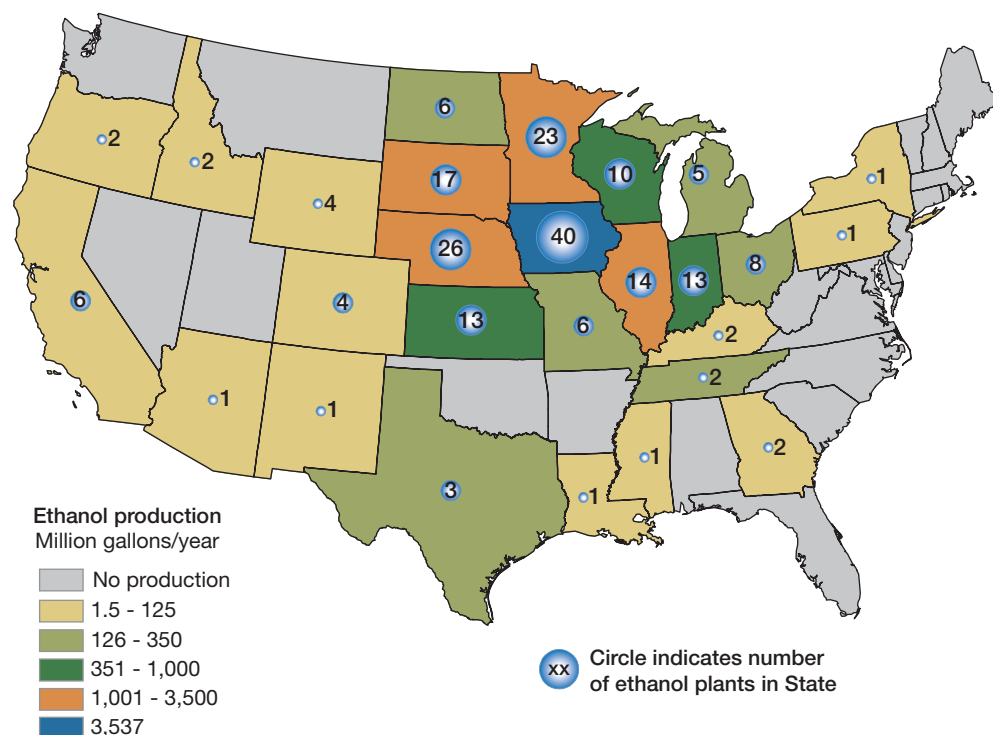
On the Map

Ethanol Refineries Locate Near Feedstock Sources

Corn is the feedstock for 97 percent of the ethanol produced in the United States, so refineries are heavily concentrated in the Corn Belt. Ethanol must be shipped long distances, usually by rail, to reach the major fuel markets on the east and west coasts. Refineries also locate near markets for coproducts such as distillers' grains, which are sold as feed to the livestock industry. As new technologies enable the commercial production of ethanol and other biofuels from feedstocks such as prairie grasses, woody biomass, and urban wastes, refineries will likely be built in other parts of the country and production will be more geographically dispersed.

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Ethanol production and number of ethanol plants by State, 2010



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from OilIntel.com, U.S. Ethanol Plants: Operational & Under Expansion.

In the Long Run

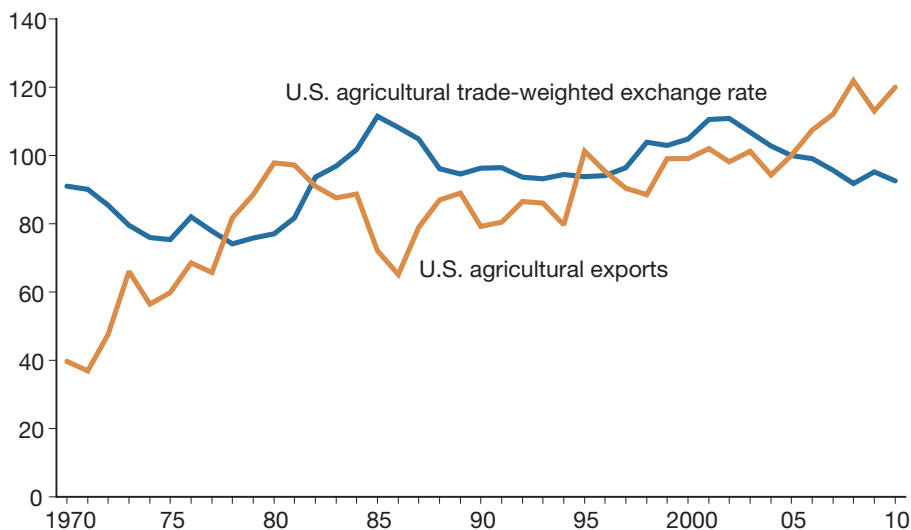
A Relatively Low Dollar Implies Good Prospects for U.S. Agricultural Trade

The depreciation of the U.S. dollar since 2002 has helped increase the real (adjusted for inflation) value of U.S. agricultural exports to record levels. A relatively low dollar means that U.S. exports are less expensive in foreign currency terms and helps make U.S. agricultural exports competitive in foreign markets. The recent depreciation of the euro implies some competition for agricultural export markets from European exporters, but the overall expectation is that the dollar is likely to stay competitive relative to most other currencies in the world.

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U.S. real agricultural trade-weighted exchange rate and real U.S. agricultural exports

Index value (2005=100)



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Agricultural Exchange Rate Data Set (www.ers.usda.gov/data/exchangerates/) and Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS) database (www.ers.usda.gov/data/fatus/).